

USS Constitution Sailors Train on board Friendship of Salem

Story by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Kathryn E. Macdonald, USS Constitution Public Affairs

SALEM, Mass. – Sailors assigned to USS Constitution received sail training aboard the Friendship of Salem, May 24.

Friendship is a reconstruction of a 171-foot long, three-masted Salem East Indiaman built in 1797, a square-rigged ship similar to Constitution. Sailors are training aboard her to become proficient in the skills necessary to sail Constitution.

“I love that the Sailors are coming out here for training,” said John C. Newman, National Park Service, 2nd mate and rigger, Friendship of Salem. “They are a wonderful group of motivated, well-focused Sailors, and they can take what they learn here and implement it on USS Constitution.”

Friendship crew members taught Sailors how to furl and unfurl the sails, man the rigging, climb the masts and maintain safety. The nine-day training course culminates with Sailors sailing Friendship to Boston and returning to Salem.

“The training we are receiving is the most hands-on experience I have received so far,” said Seaman Jared Hutchins, Constitution.

Due to renovations currently taking place on board Constitution, Sailors are unable to utilize her for training purposes. The ship is in a restoration period designed to restore the ship to her 1812 configuration.

“I feel like the training we are receiving at the Friendship of Salem is making us better Sailors,” said Builder 3rd Class Miles C. Trevor, Constitution. “Soon, we will have the skills to take our ship to sea and show her to the public like we should. It’s all part of the bigger picture, and I’m proud to be a part of that.”

USS Constitution is located in the Charlestown Navy Yard of Boston Harbor. She is the world’s oldest commissioned warship afloat and welcomes more than 500,000 visitors a year. For more information on Constitution, visit www.history.navy.mil/ussconstitution.